

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

470

July 16, 2019

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write in support of Russ Elliott to be a member of the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force. Russ currently serves as the Wyoming State Broadband Manager and during his short time in this position, he has made significant strides in bridging the connectivity gap in the state. He would be an outstanding member on the task force, and we ask that you give him your full consideration.

Prior to his current position in Wyoming, Russ spent 14 years as the Chief Operating Officer and President of Brainstorm Internet, Colorado's largest independent Internet Service Provider. Brainstorm Internet delivers services to 14,000 rural customers in western Colorado and northern New Mexico over wired and wireless technologies.

As Wyoming's Broadband Manager, Russ created a broadband mapping system for use by the state to identify and measure current gaps in the availability of broadband Internet service across Wyoming. This includes urban, agricultural and tribal areas in the state. This mapping initiative gathers data at the parcel level in even the most rural areas of our state, and will be instrumental in ensuring that service is made available, at an affordable level, to the underserved and unserved.

Wyoming is the least populated state in the country. More than half of the population lives outside city limits, with many living on ranches far from any urban center. Wyoming's rural nature, combined with its diverse geography, creates a challenging environment to providing telecommunications service to all residents in the State. We believe Russ' experience in initiating solutions for, and his commitment to, rural America make him an ideal candidate for the task force. We have no doubt he will be an invaluable resource to address similar challenges facing other rural areas of America.

Wyoming is fortunate to have someone of Russ' abilities in his current position. We are pleased to offer our recommendation for Russ to be a member on the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force, and are available to provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Enzi

Senator Michael B. Enzi

John Barrasso

Senator John Barrasso

Liz Cheney

Congresswoman Liz Cheney



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2019

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senate  
379A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Russ Elliott, Wyoming State Broadband Manager, to serve on the Commission's Task Force for Reviewing Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Elliott's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the Task Force and its working groups.

I appreciate you taking the time to communicate your recommendation to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "P".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2019

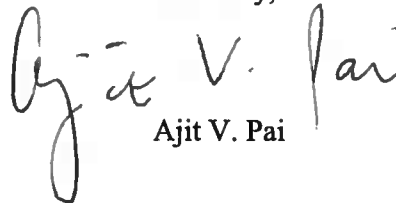
The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Russ Elliott, Wyoming State Broadband Manager, to serve on the Commission's Task Force for Reviewing Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Elliott's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the Task Force and its working groups.

I appreciate you taking the time to communicate your recommendation to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



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WASHINGTON

July 18, 2019

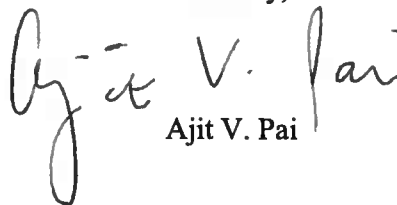
The Honorable Liz Cheney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
416 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Cheney:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Russ Elliott, Wyoming State Broadband Manager, to serve on the Commission's Task Force for Reviewing Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Elliott's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the Task Force and its working groups.

I appreciate you taking the time to communicate your recommendation to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

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Ajit V. Pai